

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 25, 2006

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REGIONAL WATER BOARD ELECTS DAVID NAHAI CHAIR AND FRANCINE DIAMOND VICE CHAIR FOR 2006

Los Angeles--During its January meeting and by unanimous vote, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Board elected David Nahai its Chair and Francine Diamond its Vice Chair for 2006.

"I am honored to again have been elected Chair by my peers," said Nahai, who has served on the Board since March 1997. "I will work to provide the leadership needed to keep the Board at the forefront of protecting water quality in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, as well as the State of California. While much has been done, a great deal of work remains. Urban runoff, brownfields remediation, continuing implementation and enforcement of federal and state clean water statutes and environmental justice are but a few of the issues demanding the Board's attention this year." Nahai, is an attorney and President of Nahai Law Corporation, a Century City law firm specializing in real estate, corporate, environmental and commercial law. Nahai is the Board's longest serving member and has been elected Chair an unprecedented four times.

Francine Diamond, appointed to the Board in 1999, is a communications consultant. "I am equally honored by the Board's selection," noted Diamond. "I very much look forward to assisting the Chair and other Board Members with protecting our surface and groundwater and promoting public health."

Mr. Nahai was first appointed to the Board in 1997 by Governor Pete Wilson. He has been reappointed by each succeeding Governor. Mr. Nahai also serves as Vice President of both the Santa Monica Restoration Commission and City of Los Angeles Board of Water and Power Commissioners. He has served on the Environmental Task Force for Governor Schwarzenegger. Mr. Nahai has been the recipient of numerous awards and commendations, notably in 2003, he was named an Environmental Champion by the Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters.

Francine Diamond was appointed to the Board in 1999 and served as Board Chair in 2002 and again in 2004. She is a member of the Citizens Oversight Advisory Committee, which advises the Los Angeles City Council on programs to be funded with Proposition O bond money. Additionally, she has served as a member of the Los Angeles County Beach Commission and as special assistant for environmental issues for the State Controller. Ms. Diamond has been honored by both the National Women's Political Caucus and the Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters for her commitment to environmental protection.

Both Mr. Nahai and Ms. Diamond are active members and officers of the California League of Conservation Voters.

The Los Angeles Water Board is one of nine regional boards in the State. Among its principal duties, the Board sets region-wide water quality standards and activity-specific waste discharge requirements, enforces both federal and state clean water statutes, regulates cleanup of sites which pose an immediate or potential threat to water quality and educates the public on water quality issues. The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board is comprised of nine individuals, each of whom is appointed by the Governor, confirmed by the Senate, and serve staggered four-year terms. Board members do not receive a salary. Additionally, the Water Board has an executive officer and professional staff, comprised mostly of scientists, engineers and geologists.

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